



MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 8, 2015
LAURENS COUNTY COUNCIL
HISTORIC COURTHOUSE – PUBLIC SQUARE
COUNTY COUNCIL CHAMBERS

ATTENDANCE: **COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT-** County Council Chairman Joe Wood and Vice Chairman Keith Tollison; County Council Members: Diane Anderson, Stewart Jones, Garrett McDaniel, Ted Nash and David Pitts.

COUNCIL MEMBERS ABSENT – All present.

COUNTY STAFF: Laurens County Administrator, Ernest Segars; Laurens County Clerk to Council Betty Walsh and Laurens County Attorney, Sandy Cruickshanks.

DEPARTMENT HEADS PRESENT: Laurens County Public Works Director Rob Russian; Captain Tyson, Detention Center Administrator; Laurens County Fire Director, Gregg Lindley; Laurens County Emergency Medical Services, Chad Burrell, Director; Laurens County Codes Officer, Chuck Bobo and Laurens County Human Resources Manager, Debi Parker.

PRESS: Vic McDonald, *The Clinton Chronicle*; Emile Finley, *WLBG Radio*, and Corey Engle, *The Laurens County Advertiser*.

SCHEDULED MEETING AGENDA ITEMS - 1.) Call to Order – Chairman Wood; 2.) Invocation, Councilman Nash; 3.) Pledge of Allegiance; 4.) Approval of Agenda, September 8, 2015; 5.) Approval of Minutes – August 25, 2015; 6.) Public Hearing, Ordinance #798 – “An Ordinance Authorizing The Conveyance Of Real Estate Containing Approximately 0.36 Acres For An Economic Development Project And All Matters Appertaining Thereto”; 7.) Third Reading of Ordinance #798 - “An Ordinance Authorizing The Conveyance Of Real Estate Containing Approximately 0.36 Acres For An Economic Development Project And All Matters Appertaining Thereto”; 8.) Presentation of Resolution of Commendation #2015-23 in honor of Claude H. Howe, III, upon his retirement as Laurens County Public Defender 9.) Third Reading Approval Ordinance #797 – “An Ordinance Creating A Special Tax Assessment For Eligible Rehabilitated Historic Properties”; 10.) Approval of a Termination Agreement for Indenture - Fiberweb, Incorporated; 11.) Administrative Report - County Administrator Ernie Segars; 12.) 6:00 P.M. Public Comments; 13.) Comments from Council Members; 14.) Executive Session; 15.) Adjournment.

MEETING NOTIFICATION – The requesting general public and Press were informed of the meeting in a timely manner. Postings of the Agenda were posted in County facilities on their bulletin boards and also posted on the County Web Site.

CALL TO ORDER – Chairman Wood called the meeting to order and invited all to stand for the invocation and the Pledge of Allegiance. Councilman Jones provided the invocation.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA – Chairman Wood called for approval of the agenda with any additions.

COUNCILMAN JONES made the MOTION to approve the agenda as presented with any additions and / or deletions; VICE CHAIRMAN TOLLISON SECONDING; VOTE 7-0.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – COUNCILMAN JONES made the MOTION to approve the minutes from the June 23, 2015 regular session of Council. VICE CHAIRMAN TOLLISON SECONDING; VOTE 7-0.

PUBLIC HEARING – ORDINANCE #798 - “AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CONVEYANCE OF REAL ESTATE CONTAINING APPROXIMATELY 0.36 ACRES FOR AN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROJECT AND ALL MATTERS APPERTAINING THERETO” – Chairman Wood opened the floor for public comments at 5:34 P.M.

Attorney Cruickshanks said, “The Ordinance allows for an expansion of property for “Project DVZ” as it relates to Owings Park Boulevard in the Owings Industrial Park. The property was deeded to the County as a public road

several years ago and is now considered not to be a necessity to continue to serve beyond the present location. The area consists of approximately 0.36 acres that will be abandoned by Laurens County and transferred to "Project DVZ" and will consist of only squaring off the cul-de-sac area".

Having no one wishing to address Council, Chairman Wood closed the public hearing at 5:35 P.M.

THIRD READING – ORDINANCE #798 - "AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CONVEYANCE OF REAL ESTATE CONTAINING APPROXIMATELY 0.36 ACRES FOR AN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROJECT AND ALL MATTERS APPERTAINING THERETO" –

COUNCILMAN PITTS made the MOTION to approve Ordinance #798 upon second reading with COUNCILMAN JONES SECONDING; VOTE 7-0.

PRESENTATION OF RESOLUTION OF COMMENDATION #2015-23 IN HONOR OF CLAUDE H. HOWE, III UPON HIS RETIREMENT AS LAURENS COUNTY PUBLIC DEFENDER – Collectively, Administrator Segars and County Council Chairman Wood presented the Resolution to Mr. Howe and wished him well with his retirement.

Administrator Segars formally introduced those guests in attendance for Mr. Howe.

THIRD READING – ORDINANCE #797 – "AN ORDINANCE CREATING A SPECIAL TAX ASSESSMENT FOR ELIGIBLE REHABILITATED HISTORIC PROPERTIES" – COUNCILMAN JONES made the MOTION to approve Ordinance #797 upon second reading with COUNCILMAN NASH SECONDING. COUNCIL VOTED 7-0 to approve.

APPROVAL OF TERMINATION AGREEMENT FOR INDENTURE – FIBERWEB, INCORPORATED - Attorney Cruickshanks stated, "Many years ago when Fiberweb and other companies had economic development projects and funding was by means of industrial revenue bonds that have been replaced by special source revenue bonds. This property is changing hands to Project Lace and the older indenture, an older record that needs to come off of the county records".

Chairman Wood asked is this not to be an Ordinance or Resolution? Mr. Cruickshanks replied that it was neither but was just a formality in removing it from County records.

COUNCILMAN JONES made the MOTION to approve the proposed Agreement with COUNCILMAN NASH SECONDING. COUNCIL VOTED 7-0 to approve.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT – Administrator Segars informed Council of the recent staff meeting concerning what is perceived as important issues based with County Council. The two projects Emergency Services and Enforcement Ordinances have each been assigned to a County Council Committee with designated personnel assisting in the process. We are attempting to try to move these projects on in an attempt to resolve the issues at hand.

PUBLIC COMMENT – Chairman Wood opened the floor for public comment at 5:45 P.M.

- 1.) Mr. Jim Anderson appeared before Council expressing his gratitude to the Emergency Services Agencies within Laurens County. This was due to an alarming phone call received several weeks ago concerning his granddaughter.

Having no one else wishing to address Council, Chairman Wood closed the session at 5:37 P.M.

COUNTY COUNCIL COMMENTS:

- 1.) Ted Nash reminded Council of the upcoming Heritage Day September 12th in the Owings Community and the Annual Hall of Heroes.

As a MOTION, COUNCILMAN NASH asked for Council to approve the nomination of Mrs. Dianne Culbertson for the Henry Laurens Award. VICE CHAIRMAN TOLLISON SECONDING; VOTE 7-0.

EXECUTIVE SESSION – Chairman Wood asked for a MOTION to move into Executive Session; VICE CHAIRMAN TOLLISON made the MOTION with COUNCILMAN NASH to move into Executive Session at 5:55 P.M. to discuss an employment matter concerning the office of the County Attorney.

BY CONSENSUS Council moved back in to open session at 7:30 P.M.

Chairman Wood reported that no action was taken.

ADJOURNMENT – With no further action required by Council, Chairman Wood adjourned the meeting at 7:38 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Betty C. Walsh".

Betty C. Walsh
Laurens County Clerk to Council